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GEORGE SHATTUCK WHITESIDE, '97

George Shattuck Whiteside, 1897

Secretary of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association, 1900-1904

It is good that we should record and praise the acts of those who by their interest and hard work have contributed to the upbuilding and maintenance of our Association. Of such was Dr. George Shattuck Whiteside, who died in New York on January 29, 1940.

The Harvard Medical School Association (its name later changed to the present one) was founded in 1890 and the first annual meeting was held in June 1891. Its first President was he whose fertile brain conceived so many useful undertakings, Dr. James R. Chadwick. To him succeeded in the next ten years, Dr. George B. Shattuck, and Dr. David W. Cheever. The Secretaries were in succession, Dr. Robert W. Lovett, Dr. Augustus Thorndike and Dr. James S. Stone. In 1900 Dr. Clarence J. Blake, the distinguished Professor of Otology became President and Dr. Whiteside, who had graduated from the School in 1897, was elected Secretary.

Up to this time the activities of the Association had been those of most such groups in their earlier days. Some eleven hundred graduates had joined and (presumably) paid their one dollar annual dues. An annual dinner was held at noon on a hot June day, usually at the Hotel Vendome, attended by some two hundred of the faithful, who were addressed by the President and distinguished alumni and guests, and who listened to an admirable report on the Medical School prepared by an appointed committee. An annual Bulletin was published containing these proceedings, articles on the School or on medical education and alumni notes, and every three years a Triennial Catalogue, containing the names and addresses of all the alumni arranged both alphabetically and according to residence,—a most useful document.

At the annual meeting of June 25, 1901, Dr. Whiteside's first report stated that "Interest in the Association is not what it should be" and it was decided to publish every three months a "Quarterly of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association" and continue to issue the Triennial Catalogue every three years; the annual mid-day dinner at which the faithful were wont to perspire on a hot June day was given up and a Triennial Dinner in the evening was to be substituted. The members then partook of a cold collation and punch at the School on Boylston Street, and the next day, Commencement, two or three hundred of them had a rendezvous at Stoughton Hall and later heard Dr. J. Collins Warren read a telegram from J. P. Morgan offering one million dollars for the new medical undertaking. Dr. Whiteside, as Secretary and Editor, carried on these enterprises faithfully and well, without much compensation save the thanks of the initiated ones, until his resignation in October 1904.

George Shattuck Whiteside was born in Boston in March 1873. On the distaff side he was descended from three generations of Shattuck physicians who with his two uncles have made the name illustrious in the medical annals of New England and of our School. After graduation from the Medical School in 1897 he became surgical house pupil at the Massachusetts General Hospital and then practiced for six years in Boston, teaching anatomy at the School and receiving the appointment of Assistant Surgeon in Genito-Urinary Diseases at the Boston Dispensary. A special opportunity in genito-urinary surgery attracted him to Portland, Oregon, where he became one of the well known men in his specialty on the Pacific Coast. He was on the staff of the Portland Dispensary and the Multnomah County Hospital and Assistant Profes-

sor in the University of Oregon Medical School and served as Secretary and President of the Portland City and County Medical Society. He was a member of many national societies.

In 1916, sensing the coming crisis he entered the Medical Reserve Corps, U. S. N., and on being called to the colors in 1917 he served first as operating surgeon at the Naval Hospital at Puget Sound, then on the battleship New Jersey with the Atlantic fleet, then at the Naval Hospital at Norfolk, and finally at the Naval Recruiting Station at Portland. Twice promoted, he retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. His long naval service made the even routine of civilian practice unacceptable and he returned to the East, engaging in industrial and insurance medicine until his retirement in 1930. Though retired, however, he

discharged until within a year of his death the duties of Associate Surgeon to the Clinic of the Greenpoint Hospital in Brooklyn because he could not bear to let his skill lie idle, if there were those whom it might benefit.

Those who knew George Whiteside will remember him as a simple and direct man whose outlook on life was kindly and humorous. He had great practical skill in his profession; his sympathetic interest in children and in those in humble circumstances endeared him to them; he loved outdoor pursuits and sports. As became his race, he bore with fortitude and without complaint the burden of a year of illness. He is survived by his widow, the daughter of the late David W. Cheever, two sons and a daughter, and five grandchildren.

DAVID CHEEVER, '01.

In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes*

Arthur Calvert Smith

In the year 1881 a certain Dr. Watson, invalided from the British Army and in search of a suitable companion with whom to share lodgings, was conducted to the laboratory of a London hospital. A single student occupied the room. He was obviously excited, and when he looked up from his work it was to announce the discovery of a reagent precipitated only by haemoglobin.

Introductions were effected—"Dr. Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes"—"You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive," remarked the student.

But let us turn here to the words of

history itself. The quotation is from *A Study in Scarlet*:

"How on earth did you know that?" I [Watson] asked in astonishment.

"Never mind," said he [Holmes], chuckling to himself, "The question now is about haemoglobin. No doubt you see the significance of this discovery of mine?"

"It is interesting, chemically, no doubt," I answered, "but practically—"

"Why, man, it is the most practical medico-legal discovery for years. Don't you see that it gives us an infallible test for blood stains? Come over her now! . . . Beautiful! Beautiful! . . . Had this test been invented, there are hundreds of men now walking the earth who would long ago have paid the penalty for their crimes."

Of the millions to whom Sherlock Holmes is a far more vivid and familiar figure than the man who brings the morning milk, few realize that there existed for his creation a background of solid fact—the background of the specialized subject of Legal Medicine, which had been develop-

*The Editor is grateful to the publishers of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* for permission to print this article which appeared in the April 11 issue of their journal. The occupancy of the chair of Legal Medicine by Dr. Alan K. Moritz is an important recent aspect of progress in Harvard Medical School. This timely and interesting article should appeal to all graduates.

ing in English, Scottish, and Continental universities for upwards of half a century before the date of Holmes' famous meeting with Watson. For some years before 1800, chairs and lectureships in Legal Medicine had been steadily spreading among European institutions of learning, their holders working closely with the police, and lending the resources of science to the ends of justice.

The actual prototype for Holmes was of course not a medical-legal man. He was Dr. Joseph Bell, Professor of Surgery at the University of Edinburgh, a celebrated diagnostician and early teacher of Dr. A. Conan Doyle. But Edinburgh, where Dr. Bell taught and where Dr. A. Conan Doyle studied, was a leader in the field in Great Britain.

And it seems admissible to quote the great detective himself on his first bow to history. Here (as quoted) he acknowledges both the existence of the field, in the use of the term "medico-legal," and a kinship to its aims in the emphasis on the value of his discovery in tracking criminals.

Holmes' statement in the latter respect naturally inclines to the flamboyant. Had his test been invented, he says, hundreds of men then free would have paid the penalty for their crimes. In other words, he covers only the retributive phase of justice. Legal Medicine would accept no such limits. It concerns itself with protection of the innocent as well as conviction of the guilty, and with many other matters outside the purview of strictly criminal law.

But Holmes is excusable. The great detective like the great prize fighter, if he is to hold his public, must have an eye to the kill. And on the other side of the question, as Holmes' admirers know, he was as sympathetic towards the victims of injustice as he was relentless in pursuit of its perpetrators.

II

By way of London, Edinburgh, and other removed way-points, we come now to the top floor of Building E of the Medical School, where the Harvard Depart-

ment of Legal Medicine is housed. This Department possesses wide interest. Not only because it evokes response from the age-old absorption of the human mind in criminals and the problems of crime; but also because its past history is one of pioneering, and because in its present orientation it exemplifies several important trends of general policy stirring throughout the University today.

To recur again for a moment to the millions to whom Sherlock Holmes is a by-word, a goodly number of these, particularly among the Harvard community, are familiar with the trail-blazing of the late Dr. George Burgess Magrath, first holder of the chair of Legal Medicine in the Medical School and for many years Medical Examiner of Suffolk County. The importance of Dr. Magrath's efforts in the belated development of Legal Medicine as a subject for attention by American universities is widely recognized.

Readers of this publication and others are likewise aware that Dr. Magrath's name and work have been perpetuated at the Medical School through the generosity of Mrs. Francis Glessner Lee of Littleton, N. H., first, in the George Burgess Magrath Library of Legal Medicine, one of the most complete collections on the subject in existence; and second, through the establishment by Mrs. Lee of the George Burgess Magrath Professorship of Legal Medicine. Dr. Alan R. Moritz, the first occupant of this chair, has now taken up his duties following two years of study abroad.

While facilities for undergraduate and graduate training in Legal Medicine have been available in certain Medical Schools in New York and Chicago for several years, where members of the staff of the Medical Examiner's or Coroner's type offices have also been members of the Faculty, it is notable that the subject has now attained full departmental status at Harvard for the first time in the history of any American university.

In a recent article in the *American Jour-*

nal of Medical Jurisprudence, Dr. Moritz describes Legal Medicine as follows:

"Legal Medicine," he says, "represents a dispersion of scientific activity and embraces a number of scientifically unrelated enterprises, brought together solely because of their common usefulness in the administration of justice."*

The scope of activities coming under this definition are very different today from what they were 100 years ago, and in practice the development of the field in America has been very different from its development in Europe.

Generally, on both sides of the Atlantic, there has been an enormous increase in the amount and variety of work falling within the province of the department. Partly this has been due to the tremendous growth in medical science, multiplying the tests and observations of value to the "administration of justice." Partly it has been due to the increasing assumption by government of responsibilities for social welfare which has increased correspondingly the contacts between law and medicine.

The extension of the field, however, has gone much further in Europe than in America. Dr. Moritz (we are still drawing on his clear and illuminating article) sees advantages, and disadvantages both ways.

* Incidentally and in a spirit of pure parenthesis, there is an entertaining relevance between this definition and the puzzled listing of Holmes' special knowledges drawn up by Dr. Watson a short time after the meeting described above—after, in fact, they had taken up lodgings together in 221-B Baker Street.

Among the positive qualifications Dr. Watson includes in his enumerations are these:

Knowledge of Botany. Variable. Well up on belladonna, opium, and poisons generally. Knows nothing of practical gardening.

Knowledge of Geology. Practical but limited. Tells as a glance different soils from each other.

Knowledge of Chemistry. Profound.

Knowledge of Anatomy. Accurate, but unsystematic.

Knowledge of Sensational Literature. Immense. He appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated in the century.

Has a good practical knowledge of British law.

In Europe the responsibilities of the medico-legal expert have become so diverse, and are spread over so wide a variety of subjects, as to call almost for omniscience. As examples he cites the inclusion in the foreign field of psychiatry and all nature of examinations where mental competence is an issue. These it would seem could be better handled by the men and in the clinics which specialize in the subject. Again he mentions as highly specialized questions handled by European experts various other forms of clinical medicine and a wide variety of non-medical police laboratory procedures, ranging from the identification of firearms and ammunition to the study of tire tracks.

On the other hand, in America there has been a tendency to restrict unduly the operations of the expert. There is small question in Dr. Moritz's mind but that American departments can be exceedingly helpful in connection with workmen's compensation and insurance cases in which there is doubt as to the validity of the claim. Or that there are many ways in which the peculiar equipment of a medico-legal laboratory can be used in coöperation with police laboratories.

The guide at Harvard has been and is to keep the scope of the department more or less parallel to that of the Medical Examiner or similar officer of the Coroner type. This follows naturally the creative work of Dr. Magrath in the formation of the Department. Medical examiners do not accept responsibility for many of the matters mentioned above in which the European expert operates. The Medical Examiner works in a sufficiently homogeneous field to permit him to become truly expert.

In this connection, Dr. Moritz, with the approval of Dean Burwell of the Medical School, recently accepted an appointment from the Commissioner of Public Safety of Massachusetts as an Expert Assistant. This appointment means in effect that the Department at Harvard stands ready to assist in post-mortem examinations in any part of Massachusetts, when desired by the Med-

ical Examiner, or to work in the laboratory on such examinations or specialized features of such examinations. It also involves willingness to coöperate through the application of scientific methods in the examination of a wide variety of evidence, such as stains, fibres, dust, etc. And further, within the usual practice of departmental co-operation in the University it will tend to place at the service of the State, in specialized cases, not only the facilities of the Medical School but those of other scientific departments of the University.

III

No more than an indication of the extra-

ordinary advances in medical science, applicable to the aims of justice, can be given within the limits of this article. A detailed accounting would be of arresting interest, but would require a great deal of space, and a closer technical survey than is here presented.

A suggestion of the possibilities and scope of the field may, however, be embodied in a brief summary of the types of research work the Department of Legal Medicine is prepared to perform.

Let us take first the general question of deduction from evidence left by the smoker in cases involving criminal proceedings.

One of the noted items of Sherlock



IN THE GEORGE BURGESS MAGRATH LIBRARY OF LEGAL MEDICINE

Holmes' equipment was, of course, a thorough knowledge of tobaccos and their ashes. He was the author of an authoritative monograph, unfortunately lost to the world, entitled "Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos." This paper apparently enumerated 140 forms of cigar, cigarette, and pipe tobacco, with colored plates illustrating the difference in the ash of each. Following down the course of detective fiction, it has become elementary that smears of lipstick on the cigarette of the feminine smoker may furnish vital clues. But turning from the realms of fancy to those of modern actuality, we find there is available to the medico-legal expert a test for classifying the blood group of a smoker from the dried saliva on a discarded cigarette butt, which may be of primary importance in the identification or clearing of suspected persons.

Then, again, ballistic experts have taken a prominent part in police procedure for many years. Nearly all large departments have an expert in this field who is called on immediately in cases involving firearms. The modern laboratory of Legal Medicine can supplement and support ballistic analysis substantially, and to the marked assistance of the police, by chemical comparisons between the ingredients of particular percussion caps and powder burns which form an integral part of evidence.

Through the application of anthropological methods, moreover, sex and stature may be determined by the examination of fragmentary skeletal remains. Modern immunological methods make it possible to distinguish between animal and human origin of small traces of material or to distinguish between two individuals as the possible source of a blood stain. And microscopic examination by appropriate means often leads to the identification of minute traces of material which have been left at or taken away from the scene of a crime or a fatal accident.

However, it is not alone in cases involving criminal intent that Legal Medicine may participate. A recent matter that came

before the Harvard Department is in point. A new industrial household product, not for internal use, was placed upon the market. A child in the family of a purchaser drank some of the product and died a short time thereafter, with resultant threatened suit by the parents against the manufacturer. Legal Medicine was consulted and was able to establish conclusively that the product was non-poisonous and that the child had died from other causes. In its knowledge and study of poisons, the Department can supplement importantly the work of the Department of Public Health in matters concerning industry and its rapidly extending list of processes and products.

The ever-increasing application of chemical methods to the needs of industry is responsible for a host of new medico-legal problems each year. Recognition of the effects of new chemical substances on health is essential not only in the administration of justice but also in order to prevent disease. This is developing into an important section of medico-legal endeavor.

Briefly, these are a few of the functions to which the modern Department of Legal Medicine is equipped to devote its attention. They give a bare and incomplete outline of a variety of effort and analysis, which even within the limits of American practice, and the goal of the Harvard Department, the subject may cover. The most cursory visit to the laboratory and inspection of its divisions and paraphernalia will bring before one many, many additional possibilities, all bound together; again to refer to Dr. Moritz's definition: "because of their common usefulness in the administration of justice."

IV

Dean Burwell in his latest annual report assigned three major functions to the Department of Legal Medicine. These were (1) the carrying on of a consultation service available to the law-enforcement agencies of the community, (2) general research, and (3) teaching.

The first two functions have already been touched on. The third, or teaching

function, is divided between general instruction to all undergraduates of the Medical School in the field, and specialized instruction to those men who desire to become experts in the field. In both types of instruction other members of the staff of the Medical School and also members of the teaching staff of the Law School will cooperate. It is likely that Dr. Moritz will also give certain instruction in the Law School in connection with courses in Criminal Law.

It has been suggested that the Department of Legal Medicine carried special interest because, among other reasons, it represented in its manner of conduct several cardinal lines of policy developing throughout the University today.

As an example of internal synthesis—the breaking down of lines between specialized branches of study within the University—its position is clear. By the nature of its problem, it coöperates closely with other branches of the Medical School and with the Law School. Beyond this, especially in its clinical work in assistance of the State authorities, it may from time to time turn for aid to other separate departments of the University.

Another important policy of Harvard, and indeed of all progressive universities today, which the Department exemplifies, is that of coöperation with other institutions of research and learning. During the present year the lectures of Dr. Moritz are being attended by members of the third-year class of the Medical School of Tufts College. Another year it is anticipated that

these men will be joined by members of the third-year class of the Boston University Medical School. Thus the Harvard Department is not solely a Harvard undertaking, but becomes a coöperative venture of three important medical schools of the Boston area.

One more important and developing policy of the University which it represents, and the final one to be mentioned here, is the general broad policy of coöperation with the public authorities and the public at large for the common good. How the Department operates in this respect has been explained. It lends to the public authorities its facilities for analysis and research. It draws from its coöperation with the authorities much of its clinical material. Through it the contributions to justice and the general welfare are direct and obvious.

The Department adds to the Medical School and hence to the University as a whole a center of active research. It makes available a type of service useful to the community, and it draws together in a common enterprise various separated organizations both within and without the University.

Operating in a unique and historic field, carrying the overtones of a subject which, whether set forth in reports from life or in romance, has fascinated men through centuries, it typifies the extraordinary scope of a great university's activities and the myriad points at which these activities impinge on everyday living and serve the cause of a new and vastly complicated society.

PROGRAM

**Forty-Third Annual Meeting of
The Associated Harvard Clubs
At New York, May 17, 18, 19, 1940**

FRIDAY, MAY 17.

- 8:00 A.M. Registration starts.
 12:30 P.M. Buffet Luncheon, Harvard Club.
 2:00 to 4:30 P. M. Business meeting, including meeting of Council and Club Delegates.
 5:00 P.M. Open House at Harvard Club.
 7:00 P.M. Dinner at Harvard Club. It is expected that many small dinners will be arranged in homes of members for guests and wives who will have been invited to attend the Symposium.
 9:00 P.M. Symposium at Metropolitan Opera House.
 Probable subject: "Have Opportunities Vanished With The Frontier."
 Speakers: President Conant; Dean Wallace B. Donham; Professor Bruce C. Hopper; Professor Harlow Shapley; Professor Francis T. Spaulding.
 (It is planned that Mr. Thomas W. Lamont will make a few brief remarks in introducing President Conant, and that part, if not all, of the Symposium will be sent out on a national radio hookup.)
 11:30 P.M. Open House at Harvard Club.

SATURDAY, MAY 18.

- 8:00 A.M. Further Registration.
 10:30 to 1:00 P. M. Meeting in Harvard Hall or larger assembly place if found necessary. Short speeches by several Harvard professors and undergraduate leaders. Treasurer Claflin will speak on University finances, followed by an address by President Conant, who will present the topic of "Harvard Today and Harvard Tomorrow."
 (Any business of the Associated Harvard Clubs which must be done Saturday morning will be fitted in.)
 1:00 P.M. Six separate luncheons, as follows:
Education: William A. Neilson, '96, Chairman; George W. Martin, '09, Vice Chairman. *Bench, Bar and Government*: Arthur A. Ballantine, '04, Chairman.
Medicine and Public Health: Dr. Eugene H. Pool, '95, Chairman.
Finance and Industry: Arthur W. Page, '05, Chairman.
Arts and Letters: Hendrik Willem Van Loon, '06, Chairman.
Science and Engineering: Dwight P. Robinson, '90, Chairman
 Coordinating Chairman of the Luncheons is Curt E. Hansen, '12. A buffet luncheon

will be served in the Harvard Club for those Alumni who do not want to attend any of the special Luncheons.

- 5:00 P.M. Open House at the Harvard Club.
 7:30 P.M. Formal Banquet at the Hotel Astor: Langdon P. Marvin, '98, Chairman.
 11:30 P.M. Open House at the Harvard Club.

SUNDAY, MAY 19.

Harvard Day at the New York World's Fair.

**UNDERGRADUATE ASSEMBLY OF
THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL**

Undergraduate research work has become an integral part of teaching in the Medical School. The results of the research endeavors of students are often reported at meetings of the Boylston Society and are sometimes published in medical journals, but there never before has been an attempt to present this material in formal fashion before the faculty and undergraduate body. On April 16 at 2 P. M. in Building D the first Undergraduate Assembly of the Harvard Medical School took place. Twelve short papers were selected for presentation on the basis of merit and interest by a committee composed of Dr. George R. Minot, Dr. Edward D. Churchill, Dr. Soma Weiss, Dr. A. Baird Hastings and Dr. George B. Wislocki. In laboratories adjoining the amphitheatre were exhibits and demonstrations of apparatus, drawings, charts and other material relating to student investigative work.

Apart from the not inconsiderable sum of knowledge contained in these twelve papers (they cover a wide field of clinical and laboratory problems), the advantage to the student himself of standing on his feet and expressing his ideas to a large body of listeners must be very great. Doctors, whether as teachers, investigators or important members of their communities are frequently faced with the necessity of speaking in public and the results are frequently not exemplary. Some instruction in public speaking may well become a part of the teaching curriculum, but a first important step in this direction is to give students the opportunity to speak.

TWENTY-FIFTH REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1915

The dates for the Twenty-Fifth Reunion of the class of 1915 were fixed for June 14 and 15 by the reunion committee at its meeting February 28. This committee consists of Doctors Fabyan Packard, Chairman; Arlie V. Bock, Horace K. Sowles, George W. Van Gorder, Samuel Cline, James C. Janney and Joseph H. Shortell.

The tentative program for June 14 is as follows: At 9 A. M. at Harvard Medical School, addresses will be given by James Bryant Conant, President, and A. Lawrence Lowell, President Emeritus, of Harvard University, and C. Sidney Burwell, M.D., Dean, Harvard Medical School. Luncheon will be in Vanderbilt Hall. In the afternoon there will be an outing at the Hoosick-Whisick Country Club. Dinner will be at either the Harvard Club or the Hoosick-Whisick Club. After the dinner Harold Thomas will speak on "Experiences of an American Physician in China."

On Saturday morning, June 15, the class will meet at one of the hospitals either for a special clinic or for a tour of hospitals. Luncheon at the Harvard Faculty Club, Quincy Street, Cambridge, will be attended by wives of the class. In the afternoon there will be a garden party at the country home of Doctor and Mrs. Arlie V. Bock at Harvard, Massachusetts.

A program of entertainment for the wives of the class is being planned for Friday, June 14.

The class address list, revised to March 1, 1940, has been issued. Chairman Packard has mailed this to all members of the class. A special publication entitled *Bulletin of The Class of 1915*, issued by Walter C. Allen, has been mailed to all members of the class.

Publication of a Twenty-Fifth Anniversary report has been deferred and may be issued sometime before the Thirtieth Anniversary.

A special announcement with reference to a class gift has been issued by the reunion committee. Arlie V. Bock is director of the fund for the class gift.

TENTH REUNION

A dinner to celebrate our tenth reunion will be held at the Harvard Club in Boston, on Saturday evening, June 15. We are trying to arrange a program in the various local hospitals for the morning of that day, and will notify you as to further details by letter. We hope that everyone who can possibly do so will be present.

ALFRED O. LUDWIG,
Class President

FIFTEENTH REUNION

A dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at the Harvard Club of New York. Francis P. Twinem has been appointed chairman of the Arrangements Committee. As soon as plans are completed details will be sent to everyone.

THIRTY-FIFTH REUNION

We were very much united during our course in medicine and enjoyed each other's company. Since graduation most of us have scattered to the far ends of the earth and have not had the pleasure of seeing one another often. We propose, therefore, to have all the members of the class convene for a dinner at the Harvard Club of Boston, on Tuesday evening, June 18 at 6.30 P. M. Although personal appeals for your presence at the Celebration will be sent later, sit down now and write a letter of acceptance to your secretary, Dr. Francis L. Burnett, 205 Beacon St., Boston.

C. W. ADAMS,
GERALD BLAKE,
F. L. BURNETT,
N. W. FAXON,
M. H. WENTWORTH,
Committee.

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Mrs. K. B. Wilson, Secretary
Room 108, Harvard Medical School
Boston, Mass.

**The Annual Meeting and Dinner of the
 Harvard Medical Alumni Association**

At 7.15 on the evening of June 12, 1940, at the Harvard Club of New York, the annual meeting of the Association will take place. This is in the week of the annual session of the American Medical Association in New York. Election of new officers and councillors will take place at this time. A vote will be taken on a proposed amendment to the Constitution (see below). Immediately after the meeting the alumni dinner will take place. The large dining room of the Harvard Club has been reserved for an expected gathering of three or four hundred alumni from all parts of the country. The speakers will be Lincoln Davis, President James B. Conant, C. Sidney Burwell and Cornelius P. Rhoads. Notices with return cards will be sent to all alumni in advance. You are urged to reserve this evening of June 12 on your calendar if you are planning to be in New York during the meetings of the American Medical Association.

It will be a pleasant occasion to renew old acquaintances and hear news of the Harvard Medical School.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE
 CONSTITUTION**

At the meeting of the Council on February 28th it was voted to hold the annual meeting of the Association in New York City on Wednesday, June 12th. A committee composed of the President, Secretary and Treasurer was appointed to make a change in our Constitution which will enable us to elect a president of the Association annually. The purpose of this is to broaden the scope of the Association by giving it more national representation and interest. It is the proposal of the Council to have as president a man of national prominence elected from the country at large. If the president lives at a distance from Boston, and is unable to attend some of the meetings of the Council, the vice-president can assume his duties, as at present, as presiding officer of the Council. The remaining officers and the councillors will be elected as usual for terms of three years, which will give continuity to the organization. The proposed amendment will be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution reads at present as follows: "The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for the term of three years." The committee proposes that this shall be amended to read as follows: "The President shall be elected annually. The Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for the term of three years."

CLASS OF 1939 REUNION

A dinner will be held at Vanderbilt Hall on Saturday, May 18. Complete details of the arrangements will be sent out shortly. Please return your reply cards promptly so that reservations and plans may be made.

EBEN ALEXANDER.

BOOK REVIEWS

CIRCULATORY DISEASES OF THE EXTREMITIES by John Homans, M.D., '03. 330 pages. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1939. Price \$4.50.

The author has had a wide and sustained interest in this special field extending back to a period when there was neither the emphasis nor appreciation of its importance that obtains today. His surgical background is of singular importance in giving to the three hundred page presentation of the subject a fund of information that could not possibly have been acquired in any other way than by actual contact with a large series of such cases. The book is arranged in orderly fashion with a logical transition between the different entities under consideration that correlates them into one interesting volume.

It is designed primarily to be of practical assistance to the physician who desires some reference in this field. Not only does it outline the methods of study and evaluation of the various clinical conditions, but it specifically sets down the aims and methods of treatment. A well-selected number of abstracts of case histories are given to amplify the points that are brought out in the general discussion, and the drawings and photographs accompanying the text add further to the clarity of the presentation. The last short chapter to a large extent summarizes many of the salient features and is an effective resume of much that has been stressed earlier. The index makes it possible to refer readily to any specific problem and adds materially to the value of the volume.

Not only will the book fill a place on the shelves of the general practitioner, but in addition it will have a great appeal for those readers who have themselves had a special interest in the field, for many controversial points are discussed, and appended to each chapter is a generous bibliography that stimulates further study. The effort that is made to credit to its original source any given contribution is characteristic of the thoroughness of the author, and the many sources from which the information is drawn emphasizes his complete familiarity with the field.

The first four chapters deal with the arterial abnormalities in the extremities; the following two with pathology in the vein, and the ensuing one with aneurysms and abnormal arterio-venous communications. The remaining chapter not already mentioned discusses the lymphatic system and its associated diseases. The absence from the printed page of the gestures and the picturesque phraseology of Dr. Homans' informal conversation is a real loss for those of us who know him,

but he can hardly be criticized on this score for what is an excellent piece of work.

HENRY H. FAXON, '25.

THE MEDICAL CAREER by Harvey Cushing, M.D., '95. Pp. V + 302. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1940. Price \$2.50.

Mr. Lowell characterized Harvey Cushing as adroit with both the scalpel and the pen. This was an admirable citation for his Honorary Degree at Harvard and was, in fact, a great deal more than a perfunctory compliment suitable to the occasion. For Cushing's non-medical writings—the "Life of Sir William Osler" (1925), "Consecratio Medici and Other Papers" (1928), and "From a Surgeon's Journal 1915-1918" (1936)—have interested a wide range of readers and have stimulated many a doctor to better literary efforts.

"The Medical Career" is further proof of Cushing's skill as a writer. The volume is a companion to "Consecratio Medici." It contains seven essays and nine bibliographical sketches.

Each of the seven essays is a scholarly piece of work, interesting, amusing, and thoughtful. Every page is stamped with the hallmarks of Cushing's grace and is so written as to appear effortless—a sure sign that practically every word, sentence, phrase and paragraph was re-written, polished and re-polished. Nor did these essays spring unaided from his brain. There are words, names, quotations, allusions and similes that had to be traced back to their original sources, verified, properly spelled and aptly utilized—all meaning a time-consuming, arduous labor.

Whenever one of Cushing's biographical sketches of any doctor or friend was printed it seemed a pity that the person for whom the sketch was drawn, perforce, must have died without knowing that Cushing would write of him. For in the short biographical sketch Cushing was at his best: sympathetic, full of understanding and kindly humor.

His essays are not unlike large landscapes, laboriously planned and brilliantly executed; his sketches are not unlike Sargent's charcoal drawings—quick, vivid characterizations altogether unique.

"The Medical Career" recently was listed in Boston as one of the ranking non-fictional best sellers. The book should maintain this position for some time. It is worth reading and owning, particularly if one's copy happens to be of the first printing of the first edition. Cushing's adroitness with the scalpel is likely to be less conspicuous as the technic of neuro-surgery advances. His adroitness with the pen is permanent.

REGINALD FITZ, '09.

REPORTS ON MEDICAL PROGRESS. 547 pages. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1940. Price \$5.00.

This volume of 562 pages contains fifty-two reprints of serial articles on medical progress, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* throughout the year 1939, compiled and edited by Robert N. Nye, M.D.

For many years this medical journal has maintained the custom of publishing progress reports consisting of reviews of literature which record advances in particular fields of medicine, written by physicians especially qualified to deal with these subjects. These reports have been favorably regarded by those who are ambitious to keep abreast with the rapidly changing knowledge pertaining to scientific medicine and who are competent to interpret them.

After a careful study of these contributions to medical literature, the editor of the *Journal* became convinced that the usefulness of reports on medical progress would be enhanced by some modification of the scope and method of presentation, designed to adjust them to the needs of the larger group of general practitioners. This modified program is consistent with the conditions under which the *Journal* functions, for it is owned by the Massachusetts Medical Society and serves a membership consisting largely of doctors in the several departments of medical practice and subscribers in all important countries of the world.

Fortunately the editor is especially qualified to evaluate the relative value of literature useful for the reader of the *Journal*, for he enjoys a wide and intimate association with the medical profession, through his experience at the Massachusetts General Hospital, research work with Dr. F. T. Lord and years of service in the Thorndike Memorial Laboratory, and other departments engaged in pathological and bacteriologic work in the Boston City Hospital. With this understanding of the opportunities for advancing postgraduate medical instruction, the cooperation of a large group, composed of surgeons, internists and specialists, all holding important positions in their adopted fields, was secured with the result that articles on medical progress were submitted by these men.

Bringing these reprints together in one book will make them far more useful, because it obviates the necessity of looking through one or both volumes of that year in order to find all that pertains to a subject of interest.

Dr. Nye has continued the plan of last year and every issue of the *Journal* will contain a progress article, with the expectation of that support which will warrant the publication of a yearbook of medical progress which will take its proper position in postgraduate study.

WALTER P. BOWERS, '79.

CARBON MONOXIDE ASPHYXIA by Cecil K. Drinker, M.D. xx—276 pp., 40 figs., 21 tables. London, New York and Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1938. Price \$4.50.

Physicians can profit from the practical information on carbon monoxide asphyxia assembled in this compact and lucid monograph. Many of them, Professor Drinker points out, do not yet understand the physiological effects of asphyxia, for they are apt to inject asphyxiated patients with all sorts of drugs. With the possible exception of intravenous caffeine, such treatment is contraindicated.

The physiology of respiration with particular reference to the effects of carbon monoxide is reviewed in Chapter I. Chapters II, V and VI treat acute and chronic carbon monoxide poisoning with detailed descriptions of pathological changes in various tissues. The harmfulness of an exposure depends not merely on duration and on concentration of gas but also on species, age, size, bodily and environmental conditions and level of activity (Chapter III). Chapter IV deals with the circumstances commonly responsible for carbon monoxide asphyxia. Both obsolete and accepted methods of treating asphyxiated patients are described in Chapter VII, and in the concluding chapter Dr. Julius Sendroy gives references to over 150 papers concerned with analytical methods. Those considered most useful are described, although not fully enough for use without reference to original publications.

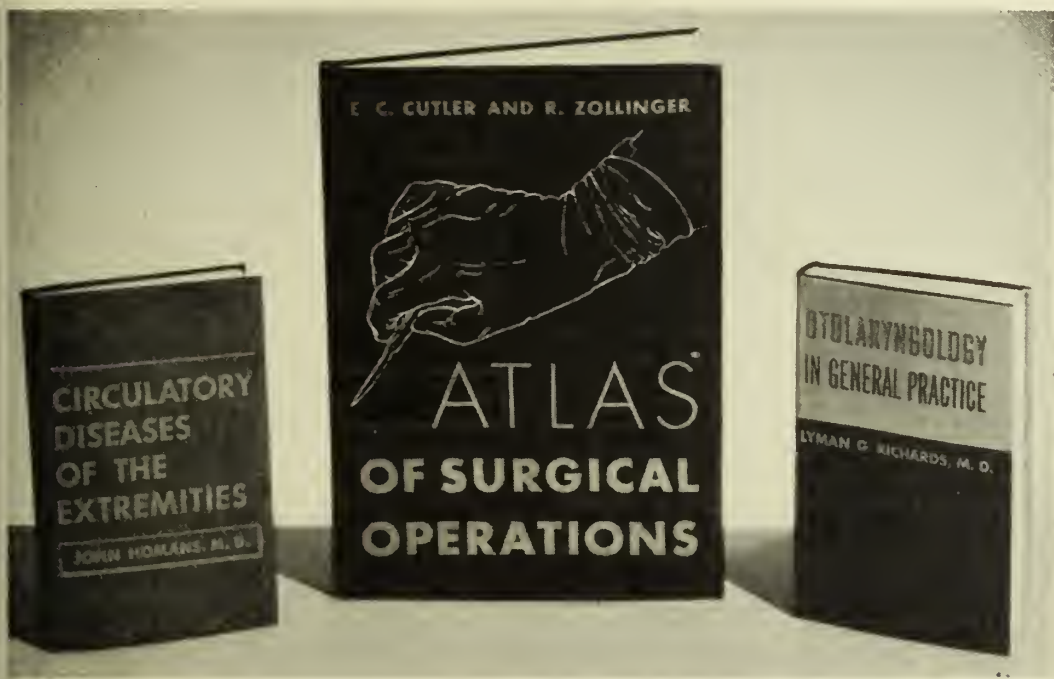
An excellent bibliography and both author and subject indexes are appended.

DAVID B. DILL.

THE POISON TRAIL by William F. Boos, M.D., '01. 361 pages with index. Boston: Hale, Cushman and Flint, 1939. Price \$3.00.

One more book has been added to the rapidly growing list of popularizations of various aspects of medicine. Written by one who can speak with authority on his own subject, "The Poison Trail" describes from the viewpoint of the medicolegal toxicologist the various exogenous poisons to which mankind may be exposed, including those which may be innocently acquired in foodstuffs as well as those used with homicidal or suicidal intent. Dr. Boos adopts the case method of teaching by describing numerous instances of poisoning which have come under his own observation.

The author introduces his subject by telling in a rather engaging fashion of how his own interest was aroused in the subject of toxicology and gives us a brief sketch of his own early medical career. From this point on, however, the autobiographical aspects of the book merely serve as a framework upon which to hang the specific



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\$6.00

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

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messages about the various poisons which he wishes to convey. Described in this personal manner, the story gains in interest and effectiveness without degenerating into the type of egocentricity of which a good many other writers, medical and otherwise, are only too often guilty.

In the first third of the book in which he describes various poisons and toxins occurring in food stuffs he has performed a much needed task of setting the public right regarding the extent and the nature of such dangers as bacterial infection of foods, trichiniasis, and poison mushrooms, and explodes the tenaciously held fallacy of ptomain poisoning. He devotes some attention to narcotic addiction and tells an interesting story of how a mass cocaine "jag" was staged for his especial benefit so that he might correct his erroneous ideas of the clinical symptoms of cocaine addiction. The remainder of the book is more like a casebook of the Borgias or a detective story thriller with its accounts of murder and suicide, softened perhaps by the occasional description of industrial poisoning.

Through it all he interlards bits of chemistry and bacteriology which are instructive enough to one with some scientific background though they may be a bit too deep for the average layman.

Because of the accuracy with which those descriptions dealing directly with matters of toxicology are given, and the authority with which a book written by one of his standing will be received, it is unfortunate that he permits himself to make some unsubstantiated and even erroneous statements when discussing medical subjects with which he is less familiar. Certainly the statement that "heavy eaters of salt place the health of their kidneys in jeopardy" (p. 69) will surprise investigators of renal diseases who are less willing to be dogmatic as to the deleterious effects of sodium chloride, and Dr. Boos should know, as a scientist, of the hazards of laying down a general law in human beings based upon a single experiment in a carnivorous animal, the dog. Moreover, it is rather surprising to learn that "pyelitis is caused by tonsillitis" (p. 215). He should know, too, that one cannot speak with accuracy of digitalis being of value in the treatment of "leakage of the mitral valve" (p. 146), since the drug acts only on the myocardium and never on the valve itself. His diatribe against the evil effects of alcohol sounds more like an old fashioned pre-prohibition temperance tract than a scientific description, and is apparently not based upon the newer studies on the physiological effects of alcohol and of the accompanying deficiency diseases which are often present and which may be responsible for pathological changes formerly blamed upon the alcohol itself. On page 122 he commits his greatest error. Basing his reasoning on the analogy of the occurrence of amyloid disease in animals who are being contin-

ually immunized by repeated injections over prolonged periods, he infers that human beings who are *acutely* immunized either by having a disease such as measles, or by sera or vaccines, may suffer permanent harm. This inference has no substantiation in fact and is obviously a dangerous statement to make.

Taken as a whole, however, Dr. Boos has given us a book which though simply written is very readable and which should furnish pleasure and instruction to his audience whether they be laymen or physicians.

LAWRENCE B. ELLIS, '26.

NECROLOGY

'80—JOSEPH KITTREDGE died at North Andover, Mass., January 21, 1940.

'81—CHARLES ASABEL GOULD died at Braintree, Mass., February 21, 1940.

'82—JOSIAH NEWHALL HALL died at Denver, Colo., December 17, 1939.

'82—HERMAN FRANK VICKERY died at Brookline, Mass., February 22, 1940.

'85—GEORGE EMERSON BREWER died at New York City, December 24, 1939.

'86—GEORGE NATHANIEL PLUMER MEAD died at Cambridge, Mass., December 14, 1939.

'89—JAMES HENRY PAYNE died at Chelsea, Mass., January 31, 1940.

'91—JOHN LOVETT MORSE died at Newton, Mass., April 3, 1940.

'93—GEORGE HALL BOWLES died at Plymouth, N. H., January 19, 1940.

'94—SIDNEY ARCHER LORD died at Boston, Mass., March 30, 1940.

'88-'90-'94-'95—EDWARD GARDNER DEWOLF died at Worcester, Mass., September 29, 1939.

'95-'96—ALLAN PRESCOTT STEVENS died at Portland, Me., September 13, 1937.

'97—GEORGE SHATTUCK WHITESIDE died at New York City, January 29, 1940.

'98—LE ROI GODDARD CRANDON died at Boston, December 27, 1939.

'98—GEORGE ALPHONSO PEIRCE died at Lowell, Mass., February 21, 1940.

'99—WALTER APPLETON LANE died at Milton, Mass., January 21, 1940.

'01—JOSEPH FORREST BURNHAM died at Boston, Mass., January 26, 1940.

'00-'01—CHARLES GILBERT PERCIVAL died at Cold Spring, N. Y., February 29, 1940.

'03—ZABDIEL BOYLSTON ADAMS died at Brookline, Mass., March 16, 1940.

'05—TIMOTHY CULLINANE died at Andover, Mass., August 14, 1938.

'06—DAVID DAMON PRATT died at New Bedford, Mass., January 28, 1940.

